Disrupted STD lines in Manipur

2215. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether STD lines in Manipur have been paralysed and the State is cut off from the rest of the country;

(b) whether the said situation has arisen on account of removal of a vital part from the microwave station at Maibom Lokchao by an insurgent outfit;

(c) by when and on what ground the said part was removed; and

(d) whether the missing part has been replaced and the STD lines have been restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. However, there is congestion in traffic due to failure of Imphal-Silchar digital microwave link.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, there is congestion in traffic due to failure of Imphal-Silchar digital microwave link.

(b) Yes, Sir. The situation has arisen on account of the removal of a vital part of the equipment from microwave repeater station at Oynamlong (but not a Maibom Lokchao) by some unidentified armed intruders forcibly.

(c) The said part was removed at about 10.00 Hrs. on 05.11.2002 against demand for ransom.

(d) No, Sir. However, STD service in Manipur are working through alternate media/path.

Problems faced by I.T. professionals

2216. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Flow of infotech workers reverses towards India" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated the 9th September, 2002;